In addition to the above steps taken, the Government has a dedicated programme to undertake research for development and evaluation of contraceptive technologies for both male and females. During the last three decades, Government has evaluated different types of Intrauterine devices, Oral Contraceptives, injectable and implantable contraceptives for their efficacy and acceptability. In order to help couples with a backup method to prevent unwanted pregnancy, the emergency contraceptives have been introduced which are very useful method for preventing unplanned and unintended pregnancies.

Availability of quality blood in blood banks

49. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether blood banks in the country are not adopting quality standards and organized storage system resulting in spread of deadly viruses like HIV and Hepatitis B through transfusions;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the National Healthcare Providers has planned a programme to ensure quality control standards for bloods;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the other steps Government proposes to take to meet the shortage of blood in blood banks and to ensure availability of virus-free blood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Health Providers (NABH) has launched accreditation programme for Blood banks/blood centres and Transfusion Services on January 25, 2008. The accreditation programme strives to the quality and safety of collecting, processing, testing and transfusion of blood & blood products. The basis for assessment of blood bank shall include compliance with the accreditation standard and statutory/regulatory requirements. The accreditation programme assesses the quality and operational systems comprehensively in place with facility, before issuing accreditation certificate.

(e) The Government of India has taken the following steps to make adequate arrangements of blood for the needy patients from blood banks and to ensure availability of virus free blood:

i. Augmentation of voluntary blood donation by conducting 48,000 Voluntary Blood Donations Camps annually in the country.

ii. As per the Drug & Cosmetics Act 1940 & Rules there under, it is mandatory for all licensed blood banks to screen each unit of blood for HIV, Hepatitis B & C, Syphilis and Malaria; before use for transfusion purposes.